

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, RP, US

SUBJECT: GOP REQUEST FOR USG SUPPORT FOR MANILA AS SITE
OF UNGA SPECIAL SESSION

REF: A) MANILA 3670; B) STATE 247693 (1977); C) USUN 3918
(1977); D) STATE 281245 (NOV. 77)

1. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC NOTE
IN RESPONSE TO NOTE CONTAINED IN REF A. BEGIN QUOTE THE
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS
THE HONOR OF ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF DFA NOTE NO. 78-600
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DATED FEBRUARY 27, REQUESTING THE SUPPORT OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS OFFER TO HOST THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON
DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

2. IN THIS REGARD, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MUST
REITERATE ITS WELL KNOWN, LONGSTANDING OPPOSITION TO

HOLDING ANY SESSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OUTSIDE UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANTIAL EXTRA FINANCIAL COSTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DISRUPTION INVOLVED.

3. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AVAILS IT-

SELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

4. IN PRESENTING THIS NOTE TO DFA, YOU SHOULD REMIND THE FILIPINOS OF THE VARIOUS INSTANCES IN WHICH WE HAVE SUPPORTED MANILA AS SITE FOR UN AND OTHER MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES (REF D). IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT U.S. OBVIOUSLY HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO MANILA ITSELF AS SITE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. INDEED WE CONSIDER MANILA'S CONFERENCE AND HOTEL FACILITIES DESIRABLE FOR A BROAD RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. OUR OBJECTION, HOWEVER, IS GENERALLY LIMITED TO HOLDING UNGA SESSIONS, REGULAR OR SPECIAL, ELSEWHERE THAN AT HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK.

5. FYI: THE ABOVE CONTINUES TO REPRESENT U.S. POLICY (REF B). HOWEVER, IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDES DESPITE U.S. OPPOSITION TO HOLD 1980 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUTSIDE UN HEADQUARTERS, THE UNITED STATES WOULD EXPECT THE HOST COUNTRY TO REIMBURSE THE UN FOR ALL ADDITIONAL EXPENSES INCURRED. (REF C SUGGESTS THAT G-77 LEADERSHIP MAY HAVE MADE A DEAL WHEREIN IF THE PHILIPPINES WITHDREW ITS OFFER TO HOST 33RD GA, G-77 WOULD SUPPORT MANILA AS SITE OF 1980 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION.)

6. THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MAY HAVE THE IMPRESSION FROM INFORMAL SOUNDINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE USG WOULD CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE GOP'S OFFER OF MANILA AS SITE OF 1980 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION IF GOP OFFERED TO MEET ADDITIONAL EXPENSES INVOLVED. WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR AT THIS TIME THAT U.S. POLICY PRECLUDES ENDORSING THE PHILIPPINE OFFER REGARDLESS OF ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT THE GOP MAY BE CONSIDERING AS PART OF ITS OFFER. END FYI.

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